

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~^{An} inducible expression vector for a-bacterium of genus *Rhodococcus*~~R.~~ *erythropolis* according to any of claims 26 to 28 in which a foreign gene can be multiplied under low-temperature conditions, wherein the vector comprises: (i) an expression cassette comprising a *TipA* gene promoter sequence, a first multicloning site to which a foreign gene can be introduced, and a transcription termination sequence; (ii) an inducer cassette comprising a second promoter sequence and a *TipA* gene; (iii) a DNA region essential to autonomous replication of a plasmid for *R. erythropolis* and (iv) a thiostrepton resistance gene, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of pTip-NH1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 106, pTip-NH2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 107, pTip-CH1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 108, pTip-CH2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 109, pTip-LNH1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 110, pTip-LNH2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 111, pTip-LCH1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 112, pTip-LCH2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 113, pTip-CH1.1, pTip-CH2.1, pTip-LCH1.1 and pTip-LCH2.1.

30. (Cancelled)

31. A transformant of a-bacterium of genus *Rhodococcus*~~R.~~ *erythropolis* comprising an the inducible expression vector for a-bacterium of genus *Rhodococcus*~~R.~~ *erythropolis* according to any one of claims 25 to 30 29.

32. – 42. (Cancelled).